

*of Syria*

STATEMENT TO BE READ TO THE PRESS BY MR. ZIEGLER  
ON RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE  
UNITED STATES AND SYRIA

(Press Adviser Elias will have read a complementary  
statement on behalf of President Asad)

President Nixon joins President Asad in expressing his pleasure in announcing that our two Governments have today reached agreement on the resumption of diplomatic relations. The American and Syrian peoples have a long history of friendly relations, and we in America are proud to count many persons of Syrian descent among our citizenry. We look forward now to an expansion in contacts and cooperation between the United States and Syria.

In the many contacts which have taken place in recent weeks between the U.S. and Syrian Governments in the course of the negotiations on disengagement, each side has made clear its respect for the independence and sovereignty of the other. In making this announcement today the President wants to reaffirm that relations between our two Governments shall be based on this principle of international law. The President also wants to take this opportunity to express his admiration for the efforts President Asad and his colleagues have undertaken in the interests of peace. The United States looks forward to working closely with Syria for the achievement of a just and lasting peace which will bring a new era of growth and prosperity to the Middle East.

The renewed contacts between our governments and especially the intensive discussions leading to the agreement on the disengagement of Israeli and Syrian military forces in recent weeks have contributed markedly to a deeper understanding and improvement in the overall relationship between the United States and Syria. President Asad and President Nixon have agreed that our governments should review and develop further concrete ways in which the United States and Syria could work more closely together for their mutual benefit. To this end, a senior Syrian official will visit Washington in the near future. In the general context of strengthening our bilateral relations the President has said that the U.S. is prepared to resume educational and cultural exchanges, and we have been pleased to receive and accept a Syrian invitation to participate in the Damascus International Trade Fair next month.

President Nixon has agreed with President Asad that Ambassadors would be named within two weeks.

by *Scates* 6/20/74

Armored automobiles can be purchased in the United States at a price ranging from \$60,000 to \$90,000. This price is inclusive, including the cost of the standard automobile, plus the armoring, special engineering, special glass, etc. The Chrysler Imperial used by the Secretary is priced at about \$90,000. A Cadillac limousine similar to this, which is also used by the Secretary, is priced at \$85 - \$90,000.

The normal procedure is to purchase a standard automobile and deliver it to an armoring company, which then delivers a custom-made finished product, in three to six months. The companies listed below have experience with doing this work reliably and discreetly for the U.S. Government and many foreign governments and individuals.

Hess & Eisenhardt Manufacturing Company  
8959 Blue Ash Road  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45242  
phone: (513) 791-8888

Protective Devices Corporation  
1939 Placentia  
Costa Mesa, California 92627  
phone: (714) 645-5452

Gleisner Coach Works Corporation  
32 Haviland Street  
Norwalk, Connecticut 06854  
phone: (203) 853-6664

Carborundum Corporation - Armor Systems Division  
P. O. Box 337  
Niagara Falls, New York 14302  
phone: (716) 278-2123

Protective Material Company  
P. O. Box 44  
Andover, Massachusetts 01810  
phone: (617) 475-6397

This matter could be pursued most effectively through the Interests Section in Washington.